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APPLICATION NO.	APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,100		06/14/2001	Andreas Birkner	rkner 016790-0407	
22428	7590	04/15/2005		EXAMINER	
FOLEY AN	ND LARI	DNER		BRAHAN,	THOMAS J
SUITE 500					D . DED
3000 K STREET NW				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON DC 20007				3652	

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

1) Responsive to communication(s) filled on 19 January 2005.  2a) This action is FINAL.  2b) 1 his action is non-final.  3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s) 5.7-9.12-16 and 20-30 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.  6) Claim(s) 5.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  7) Claim(s) 13 and 25 is/are objected to.  8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.  Application Papers  9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) The drawing(s) filled on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) All b) Some c) None of 1  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.		Application No.	Applicant(s)	:					
Thomas J. Brahan   3652   Thomas J. Brahan		09/880,100	BIRKNER ET AL.						
Period for Repty  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILLING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Extensions from mybe available under the provision of 3 CFR 1.13(a), in no event, however, may a repty be timely filled and a six (b) MONTH (so the mybe valuation and the provision of 3 CFR 1.13(a), in no event, however, may a repty be timely filled and a six (b) MONTH (so the mybe valuation and the provision of 3 CFR 1.13(a), in no event, however, may a repty be timely filled and a six (b) MONTH for mybe and the provision of 3 CFR 1.13(a), in no event, however, may a repty be timely filled and a six (b) MONTH for the mention of the provision of the communication. Provision of Claims  A) [2] Claim(s) 5.7-9.12-16 and 20-30 is/are pending in the application.  4) [3] Claim(s) 5.7-9.12-16 and 20-30 is/are pending in the application.  4) [3] Claim(s) 5.7-9.12-16 and 20-30 is/are rejected.  5) [3] Claim(s) 3.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  7) [4] Claim(s) 3.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  7) [5] Claim(s) 3.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  7) [6] Claim(s) 3.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  7) [7] Claim(s) 3.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  7) [8] Claim(s) 3.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  8) [9] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) [1] The drawing(s) filled on	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  § deterations of lone may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13(a), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filled.  § the period for reply section days he less than thrift (3) days, a reply white the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.  § NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (5) MONTH for for emailing date of this communication.  § Failure is reply which the set is centified period divided by the specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (5) MONTH for for emailing date of this communication.  § Failure is reply which the set is centified period divided by the specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (5) MONTH for for emailing date of this communication.  § Failure is reply which the set is centified by the set of the communication and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(a) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire and patent term edipatiment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b) see an expire an expire and patent term expire and patent term expire and patent		Thomas J. Brahan	3652						
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Edecidents of time may be available under the provision of 37 CPR 1.13(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled offer 50 (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication reply within the statistory minimum of thirty (20) days will be considered timely.  **TO Spend for treatly is specified above, the maintent statistory previously the statistory minimum of thirty (20) days will be considered timely.  **TO Spend for treatly is specified above, the maintent statistory previously \$1.00 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  **Failure to reply within the set or ostended principle for reply will, by statution, cause the application to become ABANDONED (33 U.S.C. § 133).  **Any redy received by the Office and state the miniming date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any examined state the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any examined state the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any examined state the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any examined state the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any examined and even in the provided state of this communication.  **Status**  **IND Provided State of the state of the state of the state of this communication.  **IND Provided State of the state of the state of the state of this communication.  **IND Provided State of the state of the state of the state of the state of this communication.  **IND Provided State of the state of the state of the state of the state of this communication.  **IND Provided State of the state of th	· ·								
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2005.  2a) This action is FINAL.  3   Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s) 5.7-9.12-16 and 20-30 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5) Claim(s) 5.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  7) Claim(s) 13 and 25 is/are objected to.  Claim(s) 5.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  7) Claim(s) 3 and 25 is/are objected to.  Claim(s) 5.7-9.12.14-16.20-24 and 26-30 is/are rejected.  7) Claim(s) 13 and 25 is/are objected to nad/or election requirement.  Application Papers  9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) All b) Some* or Note of the priority documents have been received.  2 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.  3 Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any								
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Application/Control Number: 09/880,100

Art Unit: 3652

- 1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

- 2. Claims 5, 7-9, 14, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tepman et al in view of Slocum et al. Tepman et al shows the basic claimed processing system with a workstation (344) having several side walls with two of the sidewalls having substrate conveying modules (326 and 328) attached thereto. Tepman et al varies from the claims by not showing the connections for the modules to the workstation as to have kinematic coupling elements. However the use of kinematic coupling elements is conventional in the art as disclosed by Slocum et al. It would have been obvious to a mechanic with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the modular wafer handling system of Tepman et al by using kinematic couplings, for accurate alignment during assembly, as taught by Slocum et al.
- 3. Claims 5, 7-9, 12, 14-16, 20-24 and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komino in view of Slocum et al. Komino shows the basic claimed processing system with a workstation (14) having several side walls with two of the sidewalls having substrate conveying modules (130A and 130B) attached thereto. Komino varies from the claims by not showing the connections for the modules to the workstation as to have kinematic coupling elements. However the use of kinematic coupling elements is conventional in the art as disclosed by Slocum et al. It would have been obvious to a mechanic with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the modular wafer handling system of Komino by using kinematic couplings, for accurate alignment during assembly, as taught by Slocum et al. The system of Komino is considered as variable and flexible, as conveying module (130A) and conveying module (130B) could be interchanged, as broadly and functionally recited in the claim 21.

Application/Control Number: 09/880,100

Art Unit: 3652

4. Claims 13 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Applicant argues in the amendment filed July 8, 2004, that the Stark et al reference does not have connectors at the side walls. This argument is not understood, as the reference clearly teaches that the modules are interchangeable into different configurations, see column 6, lines 40-42, and shows screws ( $S_1$  and  $S_2$ ; see figure 4) as connections at the gate valves between the workstations and the conveying stations. Applicant's remaining remarks in the amendment have been considered, but are deemed non-persuasive, as detailed above in the rejections.

6. Applicant's remarks in the amendment filed January 19, 2005 have been considered, but are deemed moot in view of the above new rejections. The amendment necessitated the new rejections, accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.02(l)(3). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. An inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Thomas J. Brahan at telephone number (571) 272-6921. The examiner's supervisor, Ms. Eileen Lillis, can be reached at (571) 272-6928. The fax number for all patent applications is (703) 872-9306.

Thomas Y. Brahan Primary Examiner Art Unit 3652

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